

Canadian Welfare League

OFFICE : ROOM 10, INDUSTRIAL BUREAU,
WINNIPEG, CANADA

Telephone Main 6091

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Vice-Pres.....A. Chevalier, Montreal
Second Vice-Pres..A. T. Cushion, Edmonton
Treasurer.....J. H. Brock, Winnipeg
Secretary.....J. S. Woodsworth, Winnipeg

Purpose

(1) To promote a general interest in all forms of social welfare.

(2) To make a practical study of Canada's emergent social problems caused by our large and heterogeneous immigration; by the rapid growth of our cities and the stagnation of some of our rural districts, by the beginnings of industrialism and generally our entrance into a fuller national life.

(3) In each community to federate or otherwise organize for co-operative work, existing social institutions so that each may give to the community more effective service.

(4) To enlist our citizens in personal service for the common welfare.

(5) To provide trained leadership for social work.

Programme

(1) *The establishment of a Central Bureau.* This Bureau will be a clearing house for all kinds of work; will issue Bulletins, distribute literature and arrange for lectures. It will as far as possible work in close co-operation with Canadian Clubs, Commercial and Industrial Organizations; with Labor Organizations; with Government or Civic Departments; with Universities and other Educational Institutions, and with the various Religious and Social organizations.

(2) *The stimulation, organization and direction of community effort in various cities, towns and rural districts.* This will probably ultimately mean several specialists, e.g., for work among the Immigrants, Public Health, Organized Charity, Country Life.

(3) *The securing of one or more training schools for social workers.*

The Origin of "The Canadian Welfare League"

For several years there has been a growing feeling among Social Service Workers and others interested in Public Welfare that conditions in Canada demand a National Society to promote and organize the various activities necessary for our Public or Social Welfare. Canada's development has been phenomenal. What wonder that some important matters have been neglected? But now we must act and act quickly, and act intelligently and unitedly if the mistakes and wrongs of other lands are not to develop in our own young country.

Canadian sentiment is growing, but, in part, because of its immense geographical area Canada is still sectional. The Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces, British Columbia—each section—and, it might almost be said, each community—is working out its own problems with little help from the others. Yet surely with communities as with individuals, “The Welfare of Each is the Concern of All.”

Do we not need some unifying force that will develop intelligent sympathy, standardize our work, and, where possible, lead to concerted and sustained action?

Many individuals are willing to “do something,” but hardly know what to do. Many organizations are coming into existence, but the organizations need organizing.

Old country institutions are often not adapted to the conditions existing in a new land. In matters of social welfare we may reasonably look to the United States for suggestions, but in many important respects “American” Institutions differ widely from Canadian. In the United States there are some seventy national Social Service organizations listed by the Russell Sage Foundation. Are we with a population of only seven millions to have in Canada branches of all these organizations or corresponding societies, or could we not have one strong representative organization working in co-operation with American or other societies?

While benefiting by the experiences of other nations, while co-operating heartily with other nations, should not Canada develop her own institutions along her own lines?

Such considerations led a group of Canadian Social workers, met in Winnipeg

in September, 1913, in attendance at the Canadian Conference of Charities and Corrections, to organize the Canadian Welfare League. On the Council are men and women representative of both the older and the newer Canadian peoples; of various faiths, parties, occupations and interests, yet all Canadians in spirit, and all united in promoting the common welfare.

The League merely attempts to unite, to organize, to stimulate. In the strict sense it is not a new Society. It is not organized to advocate any specific cause or reform. It is not a formal federation. It does not seek to establish local branches. Through its Central Office it stands ready to be of assistance to any Society or individual seeking to promote the general welfare. Ideally, perhaps, this function could best be performed by a Government department. Under existing conditions the work must be done by an unofficial agency.

Departments

I A Social Service Clearing House.

Each community in Canada—city, town or rural district—is facing many new problems, and initiating many new activities, e.g., Child Welfare, Care of Immigrants, Public Health, Housing, Playgrounds, City Planning, Philanthropic Institutions, Industrial Organizations, Social Settlements, Rural Problems. Where secure information? What has been done elsewhere? What can we do? We answer, write to the Canadian Welfare League Office. If we have not the information at hand we will try to secure it for you, or tell you where you can secure it.

Further, some communities need social workers. Many young men and women

want to enter social work. By developing a *confidential exchange* we will try to bring the work and the workers together.

II A Lecture and Publicity Bureau.

Many communities are anxious to secure a lecture or a series of lectures on some social service subject. On the other hand there are many Canadians qualified to give such lectures. As various members of our Council are closely in touch with available speakers, we may be able to help you arrange a course this winter.

Or again, many good articles on Social Welfare are appearing locally. More could be written. We propose by means of *Bulletins* and a *Press Service* to give these as wide publicity as possible. While we are developing our own literature we will utilize that so generously placed at our disposal by British and American Social Service organizations.

III Immigration.

At once our danger and our hope !

In 1901 the combined population of Montreal and Toronto was 475,770; the combined population of Halifax, St. John, Quebec, Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Victoria, 408,176; the entire population of Nova Scotia, 459,574; the entire population of the Prairie Provinces, 414,151. This calendar year our immigration to Canada will be 425,000, or about one seventeenth of our total present population. Are we making anything like adequate efforts to meet the economic, educational, religious and social needs of this vast army of immigrants ?

The Governments—Federal and Provincial—can do much, and should do more. But each community and each patriotic Canadian must share in the task

of developing a high type of life in Canada. The Canadian Welfare League will do its utmost for the Immigrant. We are open for suggestions, and will gladly answer enquiries.

IV. Community Work. Many a community is merely a heterogeneous aggregation with little coherence, and no active unifying principle at work. Often, the majority are strangers from various parts of the world. Each has brought with him his own peculiar ideas and customs which are often quite foreign to those of all the others. Industrially the population ranges itself in antagonistic groups. The churches are numerous, but religion, instead of being a unifying spirit, is often the most divisive force in the community. In matters of public policy there is hopeless division along party lines.

Yet in many communities of this character "Get-together" Movements have been instituted, Social Centres established, and co-operation substituted for competition—Result, good fellowship and efficiency. We can tell you of experiments that have been "tried out" elsewhere with success. Perhaps as a disinterested agency we might personally help in getting things started.

V Organized Philanthropy. In almost every city charitable institutions are multiplying. Unorganized they are wasteful and inefficient. Further, they often do little or nothing to discover the *causes* of the evils, many of which are really *preventable*. Many cities have been able to organize their philanthropy on a business basis. Some are initiating movements which are substituting Justice for Charity. This is not mere sentiment; it is common sense. *Practical Idealism* if you will. We can tell you along what lines other cities are working.

Finances

The League starts without any endowment or large financial backing—and without any strings ! We rely on the voluntary support of public spirited citizens. If this work appeals to you send in your subscriptions and give us a chance to “make good.” All cheques should be made payable to J. H. Brock, Managing Director, Great-West Life, Lombard St., Winnipeg.

Membership

In order to give everyone an opportunity to associate himself with this effort there are three classes of members :

(a) Sustaining—those paying annually \$50 and over.

(b) Active—those paying annually \$5 and over.

(c) Associate—those paying annually \$2.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held at the time and place of meeting of the Canadian Conference of Charities and Corrections.

Only Sustaining and Active Members have the right to vote, and voting may be by proxy.

Kindly fill in the accompanying slip and send at once to the Secretary.

Council

Dr. J. W. Macmillan	Halifax
R. M. Hattie	Halifax
H. L. Hewson	Amherst
W. W. Lee	Quebec
Rufus D. Smith	Montreal
John Bradford	Montreal
C. E. E. Ussher	Montreal
U. H. Dandurand	Montreal
Dr. J. W. Robertson	Ottawa
Prof. O. D. Skelton	Kingston
J. J. Kelso	Toronto
Miss E. B. Neufeld	Toronto
Dr. Helen MacMurchy	Toronto
J. O. McCarthy	Toronto
Mrs. F. H. Torrington	Toronto
C. R. McCullough	Hamilton
Dr. John McDougall	Spencerville
Dr. Daniel McIntyre	Winnipeg
J. Bruce Walker	Winnipeg
S. A. Bedford	Winnipeg
Louis Kon	Winnipeg
C. A. Kemball	Winnipeg
Roderick Mackenzie	Winnipeg
W. J. Bartlett	Winnipeg
Mrs. A. V. Thomas	Winnipeg
Mrs. J. H. R. Bond	Winnipeg
G. H. Barr	Regina
Dr. J. H. Riddell	Edmonton
R. B. Chadwick	Edmonton
Pres. F. F. Westbrook	Vancouver
Rev. Wm. Stevenson	Victoria

N.B.—(a) It is proposed to add several more members so that the Council may be fully representative.

(b) The members resident in Winnipeg constitute the Executive.

